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Tibet by way of Kashmir. He chose this way of reaching India in order that he might give particular attention to the desert physics in so far as they may shed light on the problem of desiccation which has so greatly engaged the attention of the geographers of inner Asia.

After a false start at Batum he began his journey at Trebizond. From that ancient stronghold as far as Teheran he was restricted to well-known highways. Thenceforth he was able to pick routes where no European had gone before; thus, to his particular research he was able to add a new route which will tend to open up more of the wastes of Persia and Baluchistan to the record of our maps. His route led him by way of the great Kevir through Kuhistan and Seistan and through the land of the Baluchi to the Indian rail head at Nushki.

Soon after leaving Teheran he entered the great Kevir (salt waste) and followed its southern and western edge for many marches. Twice he crossed the Kevir solely in zeal of exploration, for the traverse was uncomfortable and might at any moment have become perilous if the rain, which was not withheld, had lasted for the brief space which would have turned its mud flats and salt flats into quaking bog. No such extensive study has ever been made of this formation so characteristic of eastern Persia and so important in the study of desiccation phenomena. The tracing of contours of equal altitude shows that these present salt bogs occupy the sites of lake beds. The same is observed to be true of the similar beds of playa in the plateau of Nevada, disjoined fragments of the Bonneville formation. Beyond this initial fact there is great uncertainty. Hedin shows that much of the kevir appearance is best explained on the theory that it is a mass yet plastic. In an epoch of higher precipitation (and he cannot find that such was the case much later than the ice age) these kevir were lakes, commonly without exit or soon sinking below the level at which outflow is possible, therefore becoming eventually salt lakes. They have been acted upon by steady evaporation tending to reduce their water level from above and by æolian portage of dust equally tending to reduce the water space from below by the sinking of the particles. On the other hand, they have had accretion from torrents in time of rain and these torrents have brought down great freight of denudation material from the bare ravines through which they course. These changes are so slow as to be secular. There is no evidence that, in any historical period, have the kevir been other than they now are.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Gaza: A City of Many Battles (From the family of Noah to the present day). By T. E. Dowling. 120 pp. Ills., index. Soc. for Promoting Christian Knowledge, London, 1913. 2s. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$.

An outline history of this famous place in Palestine to which many references are made in the Old Testament, though the New Testament has only one reference to it. The literary sources down to the present time are also quoted; and more extended description of the town of to-day is given in the concluding forty pages.

America and the Philippines. By Carl Crow. xi and 287 pp. Ills. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1914. \$2. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$.

A competent and informing book on these islands, our relations to them, what we have been trying to do for the people and what we have really accomplished. In the author's opinion, if America should withdraw from the islands, ten years would wipe out all trace of her occupancy other than the buildings erected.

The Philippine Problem, 1898-1913. By Frederick Chamberlain. 240 pp. Ills. Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1913. \$1.50. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$.

The author is thoroughly in sympathy with the former Philippine policy of our government, which, in 1898-1913, wrought so many changes among the islands and so vastly improved conditions in respect of government, health, education, public improvements, etc. It is one of the best small books that have been

written on the Philippines and all who read it will know what our government has tried to accomplish, what has really been attained, and what appears to the author to be the present needs of the situation.

AUSTRALASIA AND POLYNESIA

The Climate and Weather of Australia. By H. A. Hunt, G. Taylor and E. T. Quayle. 93 pp. Maps, index. Commonwealth Bur. of Meteorol., Melbourne, 1913. $9\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$.

Australia is climatically one of the most interesting land areas of the world, on account of its compactness, its position in relation to the different wind belts, the contrasts between its interior and coasts, and the excellence of the meteorological work which is being done there. This new volume, the first "in the nature of a text-book which has been published on Australian Meteorology," is one of the most satisfactory discussions on climate and weather which we have seen for any region. It is not only remarkably complete, but it is interesting. A great deal of emphasis is rightly laid upon the weather element, and that, when adequately carried out, ensures the success of a climatological discussion. Not only are the mean climate conditions carefully charted and explained, but the characteristic weather conditions which make up the climate are clearly and fully presented. One-third of the figures are devoted to weather types—none too large a proportion if a valid and accurate picture of the climate is to be given.

We note with satisfaction the admirably clear, colored maps showing the regions of maximum monthly rainfall; the relation of contour to rainfall; the climatological regions with type stations—an excellent idea which might well be followed in all discussions of the climates of any considerable area,—and the weather type maps just referred to.

Would that we had many similarly clear-cut, systematic, complete and interesting discussions of the climates of other regions. If we had, climatology would receive more attention on the part of many who now, we fear, turn away discouraged from the massive and "dry" volumes of carefully tabulated and summarized climatic data which, somehow or other, fail to give the seeker for a vivid climatic picture what he really wants.

R. DEC. WARD.

The Coming Hawaii. By J. K. Goodrich. The World To-Day Series. x and 329 pp. Ills., index. A. C. McClurg & Co., Chicago, 1914. \$1.50. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 5$.

Professor Goodrich's book is wholly commendable as containing so much of the story of the past and present of Hawaii as to give its readers all that is really necessary for intelligent apprehension of the archipelago, its history, people, resources, progress and prospects. Its concluding chapter, only eight pages of text, gives the book its title, but the preceding chapters lead naturally to the deductions as to the prospects ahead. The author says that very much of what the coming Hawaii is to be depends upon success in agricultural development, that agriculture is capable of large expansion and that the population should be increased by immigrants of the farming and stock-raising classes from the United States. No pecuniary aid is given to intending immigrants, but the government is encouraging them in all other ways, and two communities of white settlers, partly from the United States, have already been formed. There are several hundred thousand acres of good land now open to settlement. The author regards the future of the territory as bright with promise. A bibliography of 124 titles is included.

Die Deutschen Marianen, Ihre Natur und Geschichte. Von S. von Prowazek. iv and 125 pp. Ills. J. A. Barth, Leipzig, 1913. Mk. 4. 9×6 .

Within the most modest pamphlet semblance this little volume affords a most valuable supplement to Safford's two works upon our American possession in the Mariannes, the island of Guam. Although the fifteen islands of